

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, and 7 are amended to address formal matters pointed out by the Examiner and to more precisely define the invention. Claims 3, 4, 5, and 6 have been canceled. Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 1, 2, and 7 are pending in the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

In Claims 1 and 2, the word "roller" has been replaced by "brush." Claim 7 now depends on Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of Claim 4, 5, and 6.

Applicant submits that the aforementioned amendments are fully responsive to the Examiner's comments and render the claims fully compliant with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

As amended Claim 1 describes the slippage mechanism of the present invention as being "a clutch associated with gears in a gearbox." More specifically, the clutch of the present invention is comprised of a plurality of profiled intermeshing teeth and a spring biasing the profiled intermeshing teeth into engagement with one another, as illustrated in Fig. 2. This is in direct

contrast to the reference invention cited by the Examiner (Schillig U.S. 4,664,132).

As seen in Figure 2 of the present application, coil spring (26) surrounds the shaft (27) and biases the clutch gear upwardly which causes the clutch teeth to press against and mesh with correspondingly profiled clutch teeth at the underside of the crown wheel (30). The crown wheel rotates upon the shaft (27) and intermeshes with pinion (34). Pinion (34) is fixed upon shaft (35) at the opposite end of which another pinion (36) is fixed. Pinion (36) engages with roller gear (19). (See page 6 of the present application). During normal use spring (26) maintains contact between the profiled teeth, however, if hair becomes snagged in the brush (11), a reaction torque build-up prevents spring (26) from maintaining engagement between the profiled intermeshing teeth.

Unlike the present invention which utilizes a clutch gear comprised of profiled intermeshing clutch teeth, the reference relied on by the Examiner (Schillig U.S. 4,664,132) recites a device that employs a thrust collar, washers, and a drive shaft for relaying output torques of the motor to the brush assembly. (See Col. 3, lines 43-54) Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that the threaded assembly of the reference is the same as Applicant's clutch gear comprising profiled intermeshing teeth and a spring biasing the profiled intermeshing teeth into engagement with one another (nor rendering obvious). As such, the features of the reference device are not sufficient for anticipating the intermeshing profiled clutch teeth aspect of the present invention.

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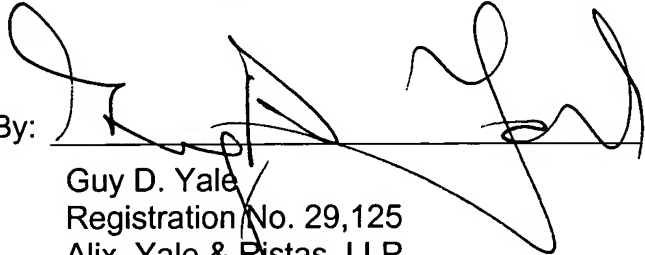
Because the clutch gear of the present is neither described nor implied in the Schillig reference, Claim 1 as amended cannot be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. Moreover, there is no proper basis for rejecting amended Claim 1 as being obvious pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103. Finally, dependant Claims 2 and 7 are patentable for at least the reasons asserted in support of amended Claim 1.

For all the foregoing reasons, favorable consideration of Claims 1, 2, and 7 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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